




# A sort of homecoming.



Chaz  
 [cvillette](https://cvillette.livejournal.com/)

<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/>  
2008-05-06 17:56:00

**MOOD:** 😊 content


**MUSIC:** The Food Network

When I got home from work, guess who I found curled up in the shade of *her* tomato pot? (The plants are still too small to cast much shadow, but the pots are just the right size for a small-cat catnap.)

I thought maybe I could sneak a bowl of the chicken livers I've been saving for her out onto the fire escape without waking her up, but as soon as I inched the window up she popped awake, turned into a bristle brush, and hissed like a teakettle with claws. *My paws are registered as lethal weapons in six states, hoooman!*

She vanished down the steps like the wind, if the wind were a herd of elephants in roller skates, and I left the livers outside in a bowl resting inside a bowl of ice. She hasn't come back yet, but sunset is around 7:55 tonight, and I suspect the livers will not endure long then!

It left me thinking about what

 [tamnonlinear](https://tamnonlinear.livejournal.com/) (<https://tamnonlinear.livejournal.com/>)\_ has been saying, about her not acting like a feral cat. So if she's not a feral cat, then she has to be a stray cat, or a cat that was dumped by somebody. But I think whatever she ran away from or got dumped by was pretty awful, because she really does not trust people, and watching her conversion from tailtip-twitching slumber to wide awake and ferocious today, I had a thought.

What I thought was, *That's hypervigilance.*

Great. Now I'm psychoanalyzing stray cats. But I think I'm right. I think she's suffering post-traumatic stress.

I hope it's not my fault for trapping her.

Poor Kitteh. :-( No wonder she doesn't trust me.

**TAGS:** [angry kitteh](#)



[locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets. Puppets. Poppet puppets. Scary.

42 comments



txanne

May 6 2008, 22:23:33 UTC COLLAPSE

I dunno--it sounded like she was that way before you trapped her. And you know you did the right thing by her. She does too, or she wouldn't have come back.



cvillette

May 6 2008, 22:28:29 UTC COLLAPSE

Well, she does know where the food is.



txanne

May 6 2008, 22:30:14 UTC COLLAPSE

If she were really afraid, she'd have gone elsewhere. Cats are not stupid.



cvillette

May 6 2008, 22:35:47 UTC COLLAPSE

I wonder what happened to her wherever she started off.



txanne

May 6 2008, 22:40:14 UTC COLLAPSE

That way lies madness, dear heart. All you can do is help her now.



bunny\_m

May 7 2008, 05:46:36 UTC COLLAPSE

*That way lies madness, dear heart. All you can do is help her now.*

Truly, your words hold much wisdom. Sadly seeing the wisdom in the words doesn't always make them easier to bear.

**Be careful....**



**turantula**

May 6 2008, 23:27:18 UTC    COLLAPSE



humorous pictures

more cat pictures



**Re: Be careful....**



**Ometotchtli**

May 7 2008, 04:46:29 UTC    COLLAPSE

BWAH-hah-hah-hah! DOOOOOOOOOM!!!!



**saeba**

May 7 2008, 01:04:16 UTC    COLLAPSE

*What I thought was, That's hypervigilance.*

*Great. Now I'm psychoanalyzing stray cats. But I think I'm right. I think she's suffering post-traumatic stress.*

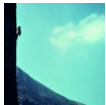
*I hope it's not my fault for trapping her.*

*Poor Kitteh. :-( No wonder she doesn't trust me.*

It's a hard life for Kittehs on the street. Hypervigilant equals alive.

Some cats get over it. Some don't. It doesn't always seem to have a whole lot to do with how the people they interact with treat them. I've known ferals who take up with a hooman and become the great love lumps of all time. And I've known kittehs who never spent a day on their own and were not mistreated by hoomans who still never ever really trusted any of them.

You're trying to do right by her. I can see that and I wish Kitteh did too.



**cvillette**

May 7 2008, 02:52:14 UTC    COLLAPSE

Thanks for the vote of confidence. 8-)

**Hi, here via matociguale.**



**razorsmile**

May 7 2008, 02:47:45 UTC    COLLAPSE

Dude, I may be watching too many TV shows about FBI agents but ... did you just profile a kitten?




**Re: Hi, here via matociquala.**

 **cvillette**

May 7 2008, 02:51:05 UTC    COLLAPSE

Um... not a full profile?


**Re: Hi, here via matociquala.**

 **razorsmile**

May 7 2008, 06:05:23 UTC    COLLAPSE

Excuses, excuses :)



 **tamnonlinear**

May 7 2008, 03:48:16 UTC    COLLAPSE

I had a much beloved cat, Naderu, one of the great feline loves of my life, who always always always ducked his head when I first touched him. This was a cat who loved me so much I could call him by slapping my stomach (he liked to sleep pressed up tight against me). He fled in terror if I so much as touched a mop or a broom, or anything else with a long handle. He would scold me if I was up past his bedtime, and he fussed at me if I'd let his water glass on the bedside table get too low on water, but there were things he was always scared of. I'd say he'd been through something rough in his past.

I think the dividing line between feral and stray isn't a definite one. Your angry kitteh strikes me as more of a stray, because ferals tend to be silent, they don't think there's any point in talking to humans. The fact that she acknowledges you, rather than tries very hard to pretend you don't exist and not draw your attention, indicates to me that she'd at least imprinted on humans at some point in her past.

But all ferals have PTSD, because surviving as a feral requires hypervigilance. They can make good companion animals for people prepared to give them the space they need, but they'll be a bit skittish for all of their lives, because they have a little harder of a time believing that this might not be the time you turn out to be a predator after all.

I don't think you added to her trouble. Heck, many of the rescuers I've known have joked that their strays didn't start to trust them until after their return from a vet visit- because until then, they didn't know you were going to bring them home again.

Thank you for helping her.



 **cvillette**

May 7 2008, 04:12:18 UTC    COLLAPSE

Well, thank you for helping me to figure out how.

(Score: Angry Kitteh 1: Chicken livers 0)



 **tamnonlinear**

May 7 2008, 11:30:29 UTC    COLLAPSE

Getting ~~me~~ strangers to talk about their cats and their weird hobbies online? Not that hard.

Getting me to shut up and listen? Sometimes harder. I apologize if I get pushy.

And I shouldn't say they'll be hypervigilant all of their lives, because that's assuming that there's a predictable behavioral set for cats (not so much) and denying the very real evidence, from my own house, of lazy semi-ferals who are quite happy to scold me for being late with breakfast.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:18:15 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Okay, yes, you're headshrinking a cat. We've established that.

...

You put the chicken livers out *in a bowl of ice*?



 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:20:41 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Well, it was warm out.

I didn't want them to go off.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:30:03 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

...

...Well, of course not.

You did remember to put a sprig of parsley on the side of the plate, right? Presentation is everything to a cat.



 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:34:13 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

Spoiled liver! Ick!



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:35:07 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

I've seen cats eat live roaches.



 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:37:50 UTC](#)   [COLLAPSE](#)

See? Nice and fresh!

(Besides, she ate them. So it was the right thing to do. \*g\* )




 [glinda\\_w](#)

[May 7 2008, 16:33:43 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

\*has hysterics\*




 [trollcatz](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:31:38 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Angry Kitteh: 1

Platypus: pwnd



 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:39:49 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Remember, you're talking about my new girlfriend. (Yes, I'm in an exploitative relationship. She's only using me for food. And apparently, shade.)




 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:42:11 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

And hey, you're up late.



 [trollcatz](#)

[May 7 2008, 04:43:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Work thing with T. Sleep now. Thud.



 [inaurolillium](#)

[May 7 2008, 10:30:33 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I not only understood it, I approved highly, as a Food Sanitarian. Even feral cats deserve unspoiled food when possible.

Also, here's [another angry kitteh](#).

 [bunny\\_m](#)

[May 7 2008, 13:49:13 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

\*boggles\*

Wow, that's at least a size 14 pissed off in a size 6 kitten. o.O




 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 13:53:25 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Poor kitteh! They are taking away his muffin!

I'd be mad, too.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[May 7 2008, 11:25:57 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

When I was trying to win the heart of Bob, a semi-feral, I made him salmon fillets in a cream and catnip sauce. For that he'd let me poke him in the belly.

Cats are big on cupboard love.

Also good? The look a cat gives you when they think they're being low-balled on the bribe.




 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 11:30:55 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Cream and catnip sauce, huh? There's an idea.



 [bunny\\_m](#)

[May 7 2008, 05:40:53 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

*What I thought was, That's hypervigilance.*

*Great. Now I'm psychoanalyzing stray cats. But I think I'm right. I think she's suffering post-traumatic stress.*

Aww, poor kitteh. ;\_;

Even if she hasn't/doesn't forgive you for trapping her, she *\*is\** much safer/healthier/better off than she would have been if you didn't. You did the right thing, so stop beating yourself up over it.

It is, after all, *\*her\** job, and you don't want to piss her off more, now do you? ;)



 [calanthe\\_b](#)

[May 7 2008, 06:20:59 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It does sound like the poor kitty has had a pretty awful life thus far. But you are doing things to make it better, and I don't think she'd keep on coming back if she really didn't trust you.

Speaking of coming back, I hope she did for the livers.



 [cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 11:30:23 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Totally scarfed.

Cupboard love!



[colanthe\\_b](#)

[May 7 2008, 23:29:05 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

...well, yeah. She's a *cat*. ~g~



[inaurolillium](#)

[May 7 2008, 07:01:22 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Hey, Chaz? Are you aware of land sailing? (Er, scroll down a bit.)



[cvillette](#)

[May 7 2008, 11:28:31 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

It lacks verticality, I say.



[trollcatz](#)

[May 7 2008, 14:59:52 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Oooh, but look at the herds of scary little people-things. (No, not the *children*.)



[inaurolillium](#)

[May 8 2008, 00:46:43 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

The scary little people things are Poppets. More can be learned about them at [Poppet Planet](#). If you run across the name Rebecca on that site anywhere, that would be me. I have an extensive Poppet collection. I even dressed as one for Halloween.

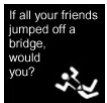
Not only do I personally find them adorable, but they scare my male relatives, which is an excellent bonus.



[inaurolillium](#)

[May 8 2008, 00:47:35 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Yeah, but didn't I catch a reference to you doing unsafe fast things on skateboards?



[cvillette](#)

[May 8 2008, 00:52:21 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Skateboards are TOTALLY safe.

...until you screw up.



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[locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets. Puppets. Poppet puppets. Scary.